

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03442 011457Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----011501Z 023410 /42

O 011426Z JUN 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3319

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 3442

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, SA, PLO

SUBJECT: PLO RESERVATION OF ITS POSITION ON REFUGEE WORDING

RES 242

REFS: (A) DAMASCUS 3021, (B) STATE 124677

1. I PASSED YOUR MESSAGE PARA 2 REF (B) TO PRESIDENT'S
POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDY MORNING JUNE 1. HE TOOK CAREFUL
NOTES AND SAID HE WOULD ADVISE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY.

2. IN COURSE OF BRIEFING HIM ON FAHD VISIT (STATE 124676),
IT EMERGED THAT DAOUDY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER AL-ASSAD HAD AT
ANY TIME SUBSEQUENT TO ISRAELI ELECTIONS RELAYED TO ARAFAT OUR
IDEA OF PLO RESERVATION OF ITS POSITION ON REFUGEE WORDING OF 242.
DAOUDY SAID HE ASSUMED WE REALIZED THAT, ONCE SADAT WAS BRIEFED
ABOUT FAHD VISIT ALONG LINES REF (B), EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT WAS LIKELY
TO REFER PUBLICLY TO POINT AFFECTING PLO, PERHAPS DESCRIBING
IT AS HIS OWN IDEA. I REPLIED THAT THE RISK OF PUBLICITY
INEVITABLY INCREASED AS WE BROADENED THE CIRCLE OF THOSE
WHO KNEW ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUGGESTION. I NOTED
WE HAD NOT ASKED SADUIS OR ANY PARTY OTHER THAN SYRIA TO
PURSUE IT WITH THE PLO.

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3. LATER IN MEETING WITH KHADDAM ABOUT FAHD VISIT, I
DISCUSSED YOUR MESSAGE PRIAVETLY WITH HIM AFTER INTERPRETER HAD BEEN
DISMISSED. HADDAM'S REACTION WAS SURPRISING: HE ASKED WHETHER OUR
INTENTION WAS TO SECURE A FORMAL AMENDMENT OF SC RES 242. I
SAID WE HAD NO SUCH INTENTION AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S
SUGGESTION RAN IN JUST

THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

4. COMMENT:

IT IS THUS UNCLEAR WHAT, IF ANY, ACTION AL-ASSAD MAY
HAVE TAKEN WITH ARAFAT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S REQUEST SUBSE-
QUENT TO ISRAELI ELECTIONS. IF WE WANT A READING ON THIS, WE
MUST GO TO AL-ASSAD HIMSELF. I EXPECT SEE PRESIDENT MONDAY,
JUNE 6 WHEN I ACCOMPANY SENATOR STONE ON HIS CALL. DO YOU
WISH ME TO ASK AL-ASSAD PRIVATELY AFTER THE MEETING WHETHER
HE HAD AS YET SPOKEN TO ARAFAT AND, IF SO, WHAT ARAFAT'S
REACTION WAS?
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: REFUGEES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INFORMATION CONTROL, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 06/14/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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